BACKGROUNDER NO. 5-5458 JANUARY 20, 1978
CLAUDIO ESKENAZI

THIS WEEK NO. 3

ANNCR:

"THIS WEEK."

FROM THE VOICE OF AMERICA, THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK GONE BY...A LOOK AT SOME OF THE EVENTS, A CROSS-SECTION OF THE IDEAS, AND THE VOICES OF SOME OF THE PEOPLE WHO MADE NEWS DURING THE PAST SEVEN DAYS. YOUR NARRATOR IS--------.

NARR:

ONCE AGAIN DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST WERE THE TOP STORY OF THE WEEK. PEACE TALKS OPENED IN JERUSALEM BETWEEN ISRAELI AND EGYPTIAN NEGOTIATORS BUT WERE ABRUPTLY SUSPENDED WHEN PRESIDENT SADAT IN CAIRO RECALLED THE EGYPTIAN DELEGATION.

THE DEEP DIFFERENCES BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL BEGAN TO SURFACE ONCE MORE DURING A DINNER SPEECH BY PRIME MINISTER MENACHEM BEGIN ENDING THE FIRST DAY OF NEGOTIATIONS IN JERUSALEM. HE SAID THAT THERE CAN BE NO ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL TO ITS PRE-1967 BOUNDARIES AND THAT THE CITY OF JERUSALEM CANNOT BE DIVIDED. REFERRING TO THE ISSUE OF A PALESTINIAN STATE, MISTER BEGIN ALLUDED TO EVENTS OF FORTY YEARS AGO WHEN THE POWER OF NAZI GERMANY WAS INCREASING IN EUROPE.

<u>TAPE: CUT ONE -- BEGIN</u>

"OUR GENERATION, MISTER SECRETARY, REMEMBERS THAT THAT WONDERFUL CONCEPT OF SELF-DETERMINATION WAS MISUED IN THE LATE THIRTIES. AND AS THE RESULT OF THE MISUSE OF THAT CONCEPT, DISASTER WAS BROUGHT UPON EUROPE, UPON THE WORLD WHICH EXTRICATED ITSELF FROM THAT DISASTER ALMOST MIRACULOUSLY. LET NEVER AGAIN THAT CONCEPT BE MISUSED."

NARR:

MISTER BEGIN'S COMMENTS APPEARED TO BE A DIRECT RESPONSE TO EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER KAMAL'S STRONG STATEMENT EARLIER IN THE DAY AT THE OPENING PUBLIC SESSION OF THE PEACE TALKS. MISTER KAMAL INSISTED THAT ISRAEL MUST WITHDRAW FROM ALL OCCUPIED

TERRITORY AND MUST PERMIT THE PALESTINIANS TO HAVE SELF-DETERMINATION.

THE NEXT DAY, PRESIDENT SADAT CALLED THE ENTIRE EGYPTIAN DELEGATION BACK TO CAIRO. THE DRAMATIC AND UNEXPECTED MOVE WAS ANNOUNCED BY EGYPT'S INFORMATION MINISTER WHO SAID FOREIGN MINISTER KAMAL WAS ORDERED TO RETURN AFTER IT BECAME CLEAR TO PRESIDENT SADAT THAT ISRAEL WAS, IN HIS WORDS, PROVOKING A DEAD-LOCK AT THE JERUSALEM MEETING. THE EGYPTIAN SPOKESMAN SAID CAIRO MADE THE DECISION BASED ON AN ANALYSIS OF THE ISRAELI POSITION AT THE NEGOTIATIONS AND PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY ITS LEADERS. BEFORE DEPARTING CAIRO, FOREIGN MINISTER KAMAL EXPLAINED HIS RECALL:

TAPE: CUT TWO -- KAMAL

"THE ATMOSPHERE WHICH SURROUNDED THE MEETING OF THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE -- OF PUBLIC STATEMENTS AND THINGS LIKE THAT -- HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH MY RECALL NOW TO REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT. IT WILL BE FOR THE PRESIDENT TO DECIDE WHAT AND HOW THE NEXT STAGE (OF THE TALKS) WILL BE."

NARR:

SHORTLY AFTER EGYPT RECALLED ITS REPRESENTATIVE TO THE JERUSALEM TALKS, PRESIDENT SADAT RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM PRESIDENT CARTER. AND BOTH LEADERS AGREED THAT THE EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI MILITARY TALKS SHOULD RESUME ON SATURDAY DESPITE THE SUSPENSION OF THE POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS. PRESIDENT SADAT REPORTEDLY HAD DECIDED TO CALL OFF THE MILITARY NEGOTIATIONS AS WELL. BUT HE CHANGED HIS MIND AFTER TALKING TO PRESIDENT CARTER.

ACCORDING TO THE EGYPTIAN ACCOUNT, MISTER SADAT TOLD PRESIDENT CARTER THAT ISRAEL SUBMITTED PROPOSALS AT THE JERUSALEM TALKS THAT WERE UNACCEPTABLE TO EGYPT. MISTER SADAT REPORTEDLY TOLD PRESIDENT CARTER IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO RESUME THE POLITICAL TALKS ONLY IF ISRAEL CHANGED ITS POSITION.

THE SUSPENSION OF THE JERUSALEM TALKS ALSO CAUGHT U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE BY SURPRISE. BUT HE DID NOT FEEL

THAT IT MEANS A BREAKDOWN IN EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS.

TAPE: CUT THREE -- VANCE

"NO, I WOULDN'T SAY THEY'VE BROKEN DOWN. I'VE BEEN THROUGH ALOT OF INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS. I'VE SEEN UPS AND DOWNS IN THE PAST AND I WOULDN'T SAY THEY'VE BROKEN DOWN."

NARR:

LATER IN THE WEEK, SECRETARY VANCE AND PRIME MINISTER BEGIN DISCUSSED THE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUE THAT CONTINUE TO SEPARATE EGYPT AND ISRAEL. WITH A CLEARER UNDERSTANDING OF THE ISRAELI POSITION HE THEN FLEW TO CAIRO FOR TALKS WITH PRESIDENT SADAT.

IN RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT SADAT'S SUSPENSION OF THE JERUSALEM TALKS, THE ISRAELI CABINET ISSUED A STRONG STATEMENT REGRETTING THE DECISION. IT LAID MUCH OF THE BLAME ON WHAT IT CALLED "EGYPTIAN ILLUSION AND ASTONISHING INTRANSIGENCE." THE ISRAELI STATEMENT FURTHER SAID THAT EGYPT HAD DEMANDED WITHDRAWAL FROM ALL OCCUPIED TERRITORY AND THE CREATION OF A PALESTINIAN STATE. THIS, ACCORDING TO THE ISRAELI STATEMENT, WOULD EXTINGUISH ANY PROSPECT OF PEACE AND CREATE A DANGER TO THE VERY EXISTENCE OF THE JEWISH STATE. THE CABINET STATEMENT CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT SHOULD EGYPT DECIDE TO RENEW THE NEGOTIATIONS, ISRAEL WILL DO SO. HOWEVER, THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT WITHHELD A DECISION ON RESUMING THE MILITARY TALKS UNTIL ITS CABINET MEETING ON SUNDAY.

ALTHOUGH THE SITUATION IS STILL FAR FROM CLEAR, SECRETARY VANCE, EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER KAMAL AND ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN ALL AGREED ON ONE POINT -- THE PEACE TALKS HAVE NOT BROKEN DOWN, AND THEY HOPE THEY WILL CONTINUE SOON.

IN OTHER DEVELOPMENTS THIS WEEK, THE CABINET OF ITALIAN PRIME MINISTER GIULIO ANDREOTTI RESIGNED OVER THE ISSUE OF COMMUNIST DEMANDS FOR A DIRECT ROLE IN THE GOVERNMENT. LATER IN THE WEEK, PRESIDENT GIOVANNI LEONE ASKED MISTER ANDREOTTI TO RUN A CARETAKER GOVERNMENT WHILE EFFORTS ARE UNDERWAY TO FORM A NEW

COALITION CABINET.

THE PROBLEM REMAINS BASICALLY THE SAME. WHILE THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS NEED SOME FORM OF COMMUNIST SUPPORT IN PARLIAMENT TO GOVERN ITALY, THEY ARE UNWILLING TO AGREE TO DIRECT COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION IN AN EMERGENCY GOVERNMENT. THE COMMUNISTS ON THE OTHER HAND HAVE INSISTED RECENTLY THEY WILL ACCEPT NOTHING LESS THAN A DIRECT ROLE IN A NEW GOVERNMENT AND HAVE THREATENED TO FORM A LEFTIST COALITION GOVERNMENT WITH THE SOCIALISTS IF THERE IS NO ACCOMODATION WITH THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS. WHILE POLITICAL NEGOTIATIONS MOVE SLOWLY ALONG, THE COUNTRY STILL FACES CRUCIAL PROBLEMS OF UNEMPLOYMENT AND URBAN TERRORISM.

IN THE EASTERN PART OF AFRICA KNOWN AS THE HORN, CHARGES AND COUNTER-CHARGES WERE EXCHANGED THIS WEEK BETWEEN SOMALIA AND ETHIOPIA. SOMALIA'S PRESIDENT, SIAD BARRE TOLD REPRESENTATIVES OF FIVE WESTERN NATIONS, INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES, THAT A RUSSIAN-INSPIRED ETHIOPIAN ATTACK ON SOMALIA WAS IMMINENT. AND HE ASKED FOR HELP AGAINST THE EXPECTED INVASION. SOMALIA SAYS SOVIET AND CUBAN DEFENSE MINISTERS HAVE BEEN MEETING SECRETELY IN ADDIS ABABA WITH A SO-CALLED STRATEGIC MILITARY COMMAND TO PLAN THE INVASION OF SOMALIA.

AN ETHIOPIAN SPOKESMAN DESCRIBED THE ALLEGATIONS ABOUT SOVIET AND CUBAN MILITARY PERSONNEL IN ETHIOPIA AS IMPERIALIST PROPAGANDA. HE SAID SOMALIA IS TRYING TO INTERNATIONALIZE THE CONFLICT IN THE HORN OF AFRICA, AND HE DENIED REPORTS OF A SOVIET AND CUBAN STRATEGIC MILITARY COMMAND.

IN WASHINGTON THE STATE DEPARTMENT SAID A SOVIET AIRLIFT HAS SENT AT LEAST FIFTY FLIGHTS TO ETHIOPIA SINCE MID-NOVEMBER. THERE ARE ESTIMATES THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAS SENT LARGE QUANTITIES OF ARMS AND EQUIPMENT TO ETHIOPIA IN SUPPORT OF ITS STRUGGLE AGAINST SECESSIONIST FORCES IN ERITREA AND THE OGADEN

AREA. DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE WARREN CHRISTOPHER SAID THE UNITED STATES IS NOW TRYING TO ENLIST SOVIET SUPPORT IN FINDING A SETTLEMENT BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA. BUT HE SAID A SOLUTION TO THE CONFLICT THROUGH A NEGOTIATED CEASEFIRE WOULD NOT BE EASY. THE UNITED STATES SAID IT WOULD NOT SUPPLY ARMS TO SOMALIA, SAYING THAT WOULD BE POURING GASOLINE ON THE FIRE. BUT THE FIVE NATIONS ARE DISCUSSING THE HORN OF AFRICA IN WASHINGTON THIS WEEK.

LATER IN THE WEEK, SOMALIA'S AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES SAID MOGADISHU IS READY TO SIT DOWN FOR PEACE TALKS AT ANY APPROPRIATE PLACE AND AT ANY TIME TO RESOLVE THE OGADEN DISPUTE. THE SOMALI AMBASSADOR ALSO ACCUSED THE SOVIET UNION OF ATTEMPTING TO ESTABLISH A SPHERE OF INFLUENCE WHICH WOULD THREATEN NOT ONLY SOMALIA BUT KENYA, SUDAN AND DJIBOUTI AS WELL.

BACK IN WASHINGTON, PRESIDENT CARTER DELIVERED HIS FIRST STATE OF THE UNION MESSAGE TO THE CONGRESS -- A TRADITION AT THE BEGINNING OF EACH YEAR. IN HIS STATEMENT, MISTER CARTER LISTED THREE MAJOR FOREIGN POLICY GOALS OF HIS ADMINISTRATION. ONE OF THESE, ACCORDING TO THE PRESIDENT, IS THE PROMOTION OF HARMONY IN THOSE PARTS OF THE WORLD WHERE MAJOR DIFFERENCES AMONG OTHER NATIONS THREATEN INTERNATIONAL PEACE. HE SPOKE SPECIFICALLY OF THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE CURRENT PEACE EFFORTS:

TAPE: CUT FOUR -- CARTER

"THE WHOLE WORLD HAS A GREAT STAKE IN THE SUCCESS OF THESE EFFORTS. THIS IS A PRECIOUS OPPORTUNITY FOR THE HISTORIC SETTLEMENT OF A LONG-STANDING CONFLICT -- AN OPPORTUNITY WHICH MAY NOT COME AGAIN IN OUR LIFETIME. OUR ROLE HAS BEEN DIFFICULT AND SOMETIMES THANKLESS AND CONTROVERSIAL, BUT IT HAS BEEN CONSTRUCTIVE AND NECESSARY -- AND IT WILL CONTINUE."

NARR:

PRESIDENT CARTER SAID ANOTHER MAJOR FOREIGN POLICY GOAL IS WORLD ECONOMIC GROWTH AND STABILITY. THIS REQUIRES, HE SAID, STRONG ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE BY THE INDUSTRIALIZED

DEMOCRACIES AND PROGRESS IN RESOLVING THE GLOBAL ENERGY CRISIS. THE PRESIDENT ALSO RENEWED HIS CALL TO CONGRESS FOR ENACTMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY PROGRAM.

FOREMOST AMONG THE THREE MAJOR FOREIGN POLICY GOALS LISTED BY PRESIDENT CARTER IS THE SECURITY OF THE UNITED STATES. IN THIS CONNECTION HE PLEDGED THAT IF THE U.S-SOVIET STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION TALKS RESULT IN AN AGREEMENT THIS YEAR, THAT AGREEMENT WILL MAINTAIN AND ENHANCE THE STABILITY OF THE WORLD'S STRATEGIC BALANCE AND THE SECURITY OF THE UNITED STATES.

IN A MORE DETAILED, WRITTEN STATE OF THE UNION MESSAGE TO CONGRESS, PRESIDENT CARTER LISTED AMONG THE YEAR'S HIGHEST PRIORITIES THE RATIFICATION BY THE SENATE OF TWO TREATIES: A SALT-TWO AGREEMENT IF COMPLETED, AND THE PANAMA CANAL TREATIES ALREADY BEING CONSIDERED IN THE SENATE. MISTER CARTER ALSO TOLD CONGRESS THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THAT HIS ADMINISTRATION IS TRYING TO DEVELOP A MORE JUST INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM -- AND IN THIS SPIRIT, IS SUPPORTING THE STRUGGLE FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA, AFRICA AND LATIN AMERICA.

IN THE CAMBODIAN-VIETNAMESE STRUGGLE IN INDOCHINA THIS WEEK, VIETNAM REPORTED A SERIES OF NEW CAMBODIAN ATTACKS ON ITS TERRITORY. RADIO HANOI SAID CAMBODIAN TROOPS LAUNCHED GROUND ATTACKS INTO FIVE BORDER PROVINCES OVER THE PAST WEEK. HANOI SAID THE ATTACKS ARE REPORTED PRIMARILY IN THE MEKONG DELTA OF SOUTHERN VIETNAM.

IN PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIAN PRIME MINISTER POL POT SAID HIS COUNTRY WANTS FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES, AND THAT TRUE FRIENDSHIP WITH VIETNAM COULD BE ESTABLISHED IF THE VIETNAMESE STOP WHAT HE CALLED THEIR AGGRESSION AGAINST CAMBODIA. IN THE MEANTIME, A CHINESE DELEGATION HEADED BY THE WIDOW OF THE LATE PREMIER CHOU-EN-LAI VISITED CAMBODIA THIS WEEK. AND THE

VIETNAMESE DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER WAS REPORTED IN PEKING. THESE VISITS HAVE LED TO SPECULATION THAT CONTINUED OR NEW EFFORTS MAY BE UNDERWAY TO BRING ABOUT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA.

IN A RELATED DEVELOPMENT, THE UNITED STATES THIS WEEK DENOUNCED CAMBODIA FOR WHAT IT CALLS A SYSTEMATIC CAMPAIGN OF TERROR. DEPUTY U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE WARREN CHRISTOPHER SAID THE UNITED STATES WANTS TO CALL THE WORLD'S ATTENTION TO WHAT HE TERMED THE FLAGRANT AND MASSIVE ABUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS NOW GOING ON IN CAMBODIA:

TAPE: CUT FIVE -- CHRISTOPHER

"NO ONE OUTSIDE OF CAMBODIA CAN KNOW THE FULL DIMENSIONS OF THE SYSTEMATIC TERROR AND THE GRINDING DOWN OF THE CAMBODIAN PEOPLE, WHICH HAS TAKEN PLACE UNDER THOSE WHO HAVE SEIZED POWER THERE. /HOWEVER, THE MANY DETAILED FIRSTHAND REPORTS WHICH ARE COMING FROM A STREAM OF REFUGEES FLEEING THAT COUNTRY DO PROVIDE A PICTURE OF A REGIME WHICH IS BENT ON DESTROYING VIRTUALLY EVERY VESTIGE OF THE EXISTING SOCIETY -- IN ORDER TO IMPOSE ITS WILL ON THE POPULATION./ HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF HUMAN BEINGS, NOT ONLY SUPPORTERS OF THE FORMER REGIME, BUT PEOPLE FROM ALL ELEMENTS OF THE SOCIETY HAVE PERISHED UNDER THIS REGIME. THOUGH THE UNITED STATES HAS NO PRESENT RELATIONSHIP WHATEVER WITH CAMBODIA, WE CONDEMN WHAT HAS TAKEN PLACE THERE AND WILL TAKE EVERY SUITABLE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK OUT."

ANNCR:

AND THOSE ARE SOME OF THE STORIES THAT MADE HEADLINES THIS WEEK. YOUR NARRATOR WAS--------. JOIN US AGAIN NEXT--------WHEN THE VOICE OF AMERICA TAKES A LOOK AT THE NEXT SEVEN DAYS OF THE WEEK.

GH/RCS